

VZCZCXRO3472
RR RUEHNZ
DE RUEHWL #0589 2090301
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 280301Z JUL 06
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3094
INFO RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0857

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000589

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/ANP - DAN RICCI
DEPT PASS TO DINT/USGS/RESTON/RKENNY

E.O. 12985: N/A

TAGS: [OTRA](#) [TPHY](#) [KSQA](#) [CW](#) [NZ](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR EDWARD KROMER TO GO TO THE COOK
ISLANDS, AUGUST 19-24, 2006

REF: STATE 122136

¶1. (SBU) Embassy welcomes and grants country clearance to U.S. Geological Survey Field Engineer Edward Kromer to travel to Rarotonga, Cook Islands, from August 19-24, 2006. The purpose of this visit is to perform technical discussions regarding the installation of a global seismic network station.

¶2. (SBU) Embassy point of contact is Political Officer Tod Duran. Contact details are as follows:

Office: 644-462-6043
Fax: 644-472-3537
Cell: 027-451-2538
E-mail: DuranTE@state.gov

Post requests that a courtesy copy of the trip summary be emailed to the embassy point of contact upon completion of your visit.

Security Assessment

¶3. (SBU) The Cook Islands is a Parliamentary democracy in free association with New Zealand, on which they rely for defense and assistance in meeting low-level security threats. The Embassy is not aware of any specific threats to U.S. facilities or personnel at this time in the Cook Islands. However, in light of the worldwide security alert all visitors should heighten their security awareness and report any unusual incidents to the Regional Security Office at the Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand (telephone (64)(4)462-6000, 24 hours/day).

¶4. (SBU) Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S. and the 2002 and 2005 terrorist bombings in Bali, there has been concern that terrorists might seek to take advantage of the low level of security maintained in small island states such as the Cook Islands in order to target tourists in previously safe destinations. New Zealand has worked with the Cook Islands to improve airport security in response to this possibility.

¶5. (U) As a result of recent military action in Iraq, there is a potential for retaliatory actions to be taken against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. Public demonstrations carry the potential for precipitating violence directed at American citizens.

¶6. (SBU) U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert and some have drawn down their dependents and/or personnel. These facilities may temporarily close or suspend public services from time to time for security reasons. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to American citizens. Monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest American Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

¶7. (U) Crime: Appropriate common sense precautions should be taken, especially at night, to avoid becoming a target of opportunity.

¶8. (U) Weather: Severe cyclones present a threat during the hurricane season; however, this is generally only from November to March.

McCormick